

**Minutes**  
**Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Council**  
**Dorothea Dix Campus, Kirby Building Rm 297**  
**Raleigh, North Carolina**  
**December 13, 2006**

<b>Members Present</b>		
Michiele Elliott	Marilyn Lash	Scott Sagraves
Sandra Farmer	Elizabeth Newlin	Tom Winton
John Noland for David Forsythe	Jo Perkins	
Stephen Hooper	Grey Powell	
Anne King	Sharon Rhyne	

<b>Members Absent</b>		
David Atkinson	Flora Hammond	Holly Riddle
Spencer Clark	Tonia Harrison	Robert Seligson
Martin Foil	Charles Monnett	Jamesa Selleck
Lynn Freeman	Patrick O'Brien	Elsie Siebelink

<b>Others Present</b>		
Veronica Bohannon	Travis Glass	
Mark Eagle	Tami Guerria	
Sandy Ellsworth	Jan White	

The meeting was called to order by Sharon Rhyne, Chair, at 10:12 a.m. Ms. Rhyne welcomed all council members and guests and introductions were made.

**Review of Minutes:**

Ms. Rhyne requested that members review the minutes from the September 20, 2006 council meeting. One correction, Dr. Sagraves, fix the spelling of his name.

**Motion:** With no other changes noted a motion was made by Tom Winton, seconded by Stephen Hooper. The minutes were unanimously approved.

**Elements for the Successful Passage of Legislation**

Guest speaker Pat Yancey presented to the Council on how to successfully seek legislative action. She stated that legislative reform will take place Jan. 1, 2007. She further stated that the environment for advocating has changed so to ensure the success begin with the following steps:

**Step One:**

- Create a long term agenda and shape it into a short term agenda
- Identify 1 or 2 priority items, at least 1 of those being a policy issue and the other a funding issue
- Always have an alternate plan
- Make a strong case when listing the needs
- List other items that you support but on which the organization will not serve as primary advocate
- Develop a one-page issue sheet (can be front & back if necessary)
- State your issue (public policy or funding)
- Include necessary changes and rationale for change
- Include background data

- Include funding request and justification
- Attach a draft bill or model legislation and give to the bill sponsor
- Attach supporting information

### **Step Two:**

- Develop a plan/system for accomplishing legislative agenda
- Designate an individual(s) to testify at legislative committee meetings, if needed
- Develop a plan/system for contacting legislators to urge their support
- Get legislative sponsors that are as passionate about your issue as you are but not overloaded with work
- Determine who will draft messages/alerts to go to advocates
- Determine who will be on the list of individuals to receive the messages/alerts and to take the appropriate actions
- Find legislators to sponsor the legislation – at least two primary sponsors – one from House of Representatives and one from Senate (public policy and/or funding requests)
- Find legislators who are willing to be co-sponsors of the legislation
- Arrange time to meet with and to go over legislative requests and to brief potential bill sponsors

### **Step Three:**

- Follow up and evaluate legislative actions
- Evaluate accomplishments
- Determine what is needed for the next legislative session
- Use the period of time between sessions to work on issues and funding requests and to develop a relationship with legislators and supporters
- Send out thank you notes/messages
- Follow up with letters to appropriate legislators

Other suggestions: Always operate within the confines of lobbying laws. Familiarize all persons working on this process with the lobbying laws.

## ***DIVISION UPDATES***

### **Funding**

Sandy Ellsworth passed out a TBI fact sheet which contained information about what the funding is needed for, what services in the DMH are available to someone who has traumatic brain injury, priority needs and a brief summary about the State TBI funds. She reported that Spencer Clark has worked diligently to get more funding for TBI. CDL will do the Needs Assessment with \$100,000 funding. Input for the survey will be compiled from many agencies statewide. The expected timeline is 9-12 months. Ms. Lash mentioned that other states have already completed this survey and are willing to assist with the process.

### **Community Capacity Building**

Ms. Ellsworth reported contact was being made with TBI providers to determine the training needs and possibly a provider meeting.

### **Prevention**

Jan White has attended several meetings and shared information on brain injury prevention. She gave a brief explanation of several prevention program models across the state such as the Think First program. BIANC has agreed to do a fact sheet with the Remember When model. She will continue to research this topic and share the information with the Council. Dr. Sagraves stated that TBI is a problem for trauma centers state-wide.

## **TBI State Plan**

Jo Perkins gave input to the TBI State Plan from the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (VR). Ms Perkins stated that the Lead Agency and VR need to develop marketing strategies with BIANC regarding TBI and the workforce. We need to remember that the employer is a customer also. Cognitive retraining is a need that must be reviewed in the individual's need assessment. VR does provide cognitive retraining in three areas and is hoping to initiate this service in Fayetteville. Long term Supported Employment will continue to be a need for survivors entering and remaining in the workforce.

Tom Winton gave input to the TBI State Plan from the Department of Public Instruction (DPI). He presented a list of discussion points on services in NC public schools and the role of the NCDPI. DPI had put out a TBI Best Practices booklet in 1997, this book needs to be updated.

Present number of known survivors of TBI attending NC public schools is around 520; this number is not as high as it should be based on CDC estimates. The Local Education Authorities (LEA) need a better screening process. 115 LEAs makes it difficult to adopt one process. DPI needs to update Registry of School Psychologists (and other professionals). Mobile Resource Teams for TBI will go to the school and build capacity for TBI. Tom's section works on low incidence children; they have specialists for Speech and Deaf/HOH but not for TBI. Public Schools serve through age 21; Community Colleges have some responsibility for disabled students. Publicly funded colleges have some responsibility, generally around access.

Marilyn L. noted that Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the ADA look at responsibilities of Community Colleges and Public Universities. Stephen Hooper suggested regional trainings coordinated through DPI, Project Star and AHEC.

## **History of and Need for Neurobehavioral – Sandra Farmer & Ana King**

Sandra Farmer defined Neurobehavioral. She discussed efforts to develop a neurobehavioral unit at Black Mountain Center. Ana King gave some history of TBI and the DMH/DD/SAS. The TBI position was first funded by the Division of Medical Assistance to assist DMH/DD/SAS in serving the TBI Population. In years 1993 through 2001 there were 8 TBI consumers receiving services out of state and she was tasked with finding services closer to home. The year of the first State Plan was 1996.

### **Task Force:**

Marilyn Lash announced that a task force would be formed for study of Neurobehavioral Models and will be headed by her. A second task force to study the TBI vs. ABI definition will be headed by Dr. Flora Hammond. The definition task force will be a three stage process:

- Clinical basis for grouping under ABI
- Programmatic implications if definition is broadened
- Financial implications if broadened

Using the finding of these task forces, a white paper will be developed.

## **Committee Reports**

**Legislative Committee:** Sandra Farmer reported that the Coalition wants recommendations for bills to be introduced for next session by end of December. Sharon Rhyne recommended finding better sponsors. Ideas included: Kerr, Hoyle or Nesbitt. Ms. Farmer mentioned that Representative Insko would support this in the House but is very busy with Mental Health reform. Ms. Ellsworth reported that bills must be introduced in the Chamber doing the budget that session which is the house this session. Sharon Rhyne stated that this needs to go to the Division for input. Ana King stated that Dec 23, 2006 was the deadline to get something into the budget.

**Health Services Committee:**

In David Henderson's absence, John Noland shared copies of the VA TBI Training Manual for individuals to review.

**The meeting dates for 2007 are March 14, 2007, June 13, 2007, September 12, 2007 and December 12, 2007 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on the Dix campus.**

Ms. Rhyne thanked everyone for their input. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:38 p.m..

Respectfully submitted,  
Veronica Bohannon  
Program Support